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CLAIMS:

1. Optical information carrier (1) for carrying information to be read out by means of an optical beam (9) comprising:
 - 5 at least one information layer (6) containing material having Bragg reflector characteristics for reflecting light of said optical beam (9), when said material is heated above a reflectance threshold temperature by said optical beam (9).
2. Optical information carrier (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said material contains liquid crystal.
- 10 3. Optical information carrier (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said material contains cholesteric liquid crystal.
4. Optical information carrier (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said material contains liquid crystal in the blue phase.
- 15 5. Optical information carrier (1) as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that said material contains alternating layers (15, 16) with different refractive indices.
6. Optical information carrier as claimed in claim 5, characterized in that each 20 layer (15, 16) contains block copolymers.
7. Optical information carrier as claimed in claim 1, characterized by at least two information layers (6) and at least one spacer layer (7) separating said at least two information layers (6) and being transparent for said optical beam 25 (9).
8. Read-out device for reading out information from an optical information carrier (1), which comprises at least one information layer (6) containing material having

Bragg reflector characteristics for reflecting light of an optical beam (9), when said material is heated above a reflectance threshold temperature, comprising:

5 a light source emitting said optical beam (9), which can be directed onto said optical information carrier (1), producing a temperature above said reflectance threshold temperature.

9. Read-out device as claimed in claim 8, characterized by focussing means (12) for focusing said optical beam (9) on a focal spot (10) having a temperature above said reflectance threshold temperature on said at least one information layer (6).

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10. Read-out device as claimed in claim 8, characterized by at least one detector for detecting light reflected by said material having Bragg reflector characteristics.

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11. Writing device for writing information on an optical information carrier (1), which comprises at least one information layer (6) containing material having Bragg reflector characteristics comprising:

a light source emitting an optical beam (9) to be directed onto said optical information carrier (1) for changing reflection characteristics of said material.

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12. Writing device as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that said optical beam produces a temperature above a degrading temperature threshold of said material for degrading said Bragg reflector.

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13. Writing device as claimed in claim 11, characterized by focussing means for focusing said optical beam (9) on a focal spot (10) on said at least one information layer.

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14. Method for reading out information from an optical information carrier (1), which comprises at least one information layer (6) containing material having Bragg reflector characteristics for reflecting light of an optical beam (9), when the material is heated above a reflectance threshold temperature comprising the steps of:

directing said optical beam on said information carrier for heating said material above said reflectance threshold temperature,

detecting signals being reflected by said heated material and evaluating said detected signals.

15. Method as claimed in claim 14, characterized by focusing an optical beam (9) on a focal spot (10) in one of said information layers (6) for heating said material above said reflectance threshold temperature.

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16. Method for writing information on an optical information carrier (1), which comprises at least one information layer (6) containing material having Bragg reflector characteristics comprising the steps of:

10 directing an optical beam (9) on said optical information carrier (1) for changing reflection characteristics of said material.

17. Method as claimed in claim 16, characterized by heating said material above a degrading temperature threshold of said material degrading said material.

15 18. Method as claimed in claim 16, characterized by focusing said optical beam (9) on a focal spot (10) on said at least one information layer for heating said material above said degrading temperature threshold.